

## **Railroad Quiet Zone Goes Into Effect October 12**

We are pleased to report that after nearly two years of working through volumes of federal regulations and coordinating the interests and needs of public agencies that include the County of Lake, 9 individual villages (Antioch, Lake Villa, Round Lake Beach, Grayslake, Libertyville, Mundelein, Vernon Hills, Buffalo Grove and Wheeling), several township highway departments and the Illinois Department of Transportation, the final Notice of Establishment for the Canadian National Railway corridor quiet zone was filed with the necessary oversight agencies and affected railroads on September 20, 2007. Based upon the filing of the Notice of Establishment and subsequent notice requirements in the regulations governing the use of locomotive train horns at rail/highway grade crossings, the new corridor Quiet Zone will go into effect on Friday, October 12th at 12:01 pm.

The new Quiet Zone corridor begins at a point near to where the CN line enters the state of Illinois, north of Antioch, and extends through Wheeling, where the line enters Prospect Heights. At that point, it joins an older, existing quiet zone, which was allowed to continue in force based on pre-rule grandfathering. When effective, the routine sounding to locomotive train horns will cease in the new Quiet Zone corridor, except when there is a condition of "imminent danger" to the train crew, pedestrian or vehicle operator. Only then is use of the horn permitted under the applicable federal legislation.

Maintaining the new Quiet Zone will involve on-going, continual coordination between the public agencies involved to date. The new Quiet Zone has been established based upon the safety characteristics of the corridor, as quantified at this time, which are subject to change in the future based on any number of variations in conditions. As such, each local agency involved to date has agreed to undertake such additional actions as are required to maintain the safety of the corridor, in an effort to ensure that any changes that occur will not affect the integrity of the new Quiet Zone.

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